

# The thermal neutron scattering measurements and analysis

Y. Danon, E. Liu, C. Wendorff, K. Ramic

*Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY, 12180*



WPEC SG42, “Thermal Scattering Kernel  $S(\alpha, \beta)$ : Measurement, Evaluation and Application”, May 11, 2016



**Rensselaer**



# RPI Nuclear Data Group

## *RPI Faculty*

Prof. Yaron Danon - LINAC Director  
Prof. Li Liu

## *BMPC*

Dr. Greg Leinweber  
Prof. (Emeritus) Robert C. Block  
Dr. Devin Barry  
Dr. Michael Rapp  
Dr. Tim Trumbull  
Mr. Brian Epping  
Dr. John Burke

## *Technical Staff*

**Dr. Ezekiel Blain**  
Peter Brand  
Michael A. Bretti  
Matt Gray  
Azeddine Kerdoun  
Larry Krusieski

## *Graduate Students*

**Brian McDermott**  
Adam Wertz  
Nicholas Thompson  
Kemal Ramic

Carl Wendorff  
Amanda Youmans  
Jesse Brown  
Kumar Mohindroo

## *Undergraduate students*

Amanda Lewis  
Adam Ney  
John Thai  
Madison Wyatt

***BOLD**= researcher or graduate students supported by NCSP*



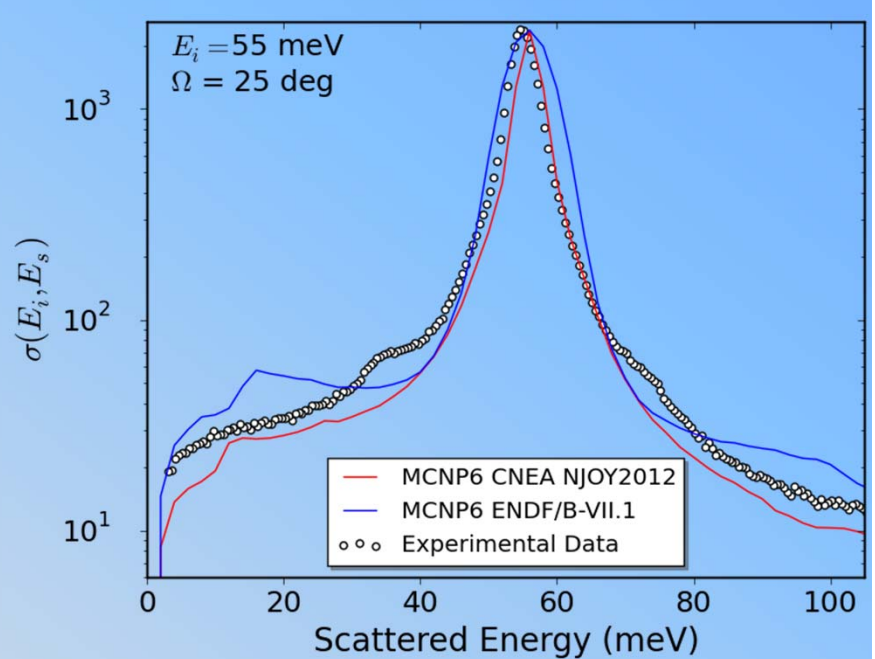
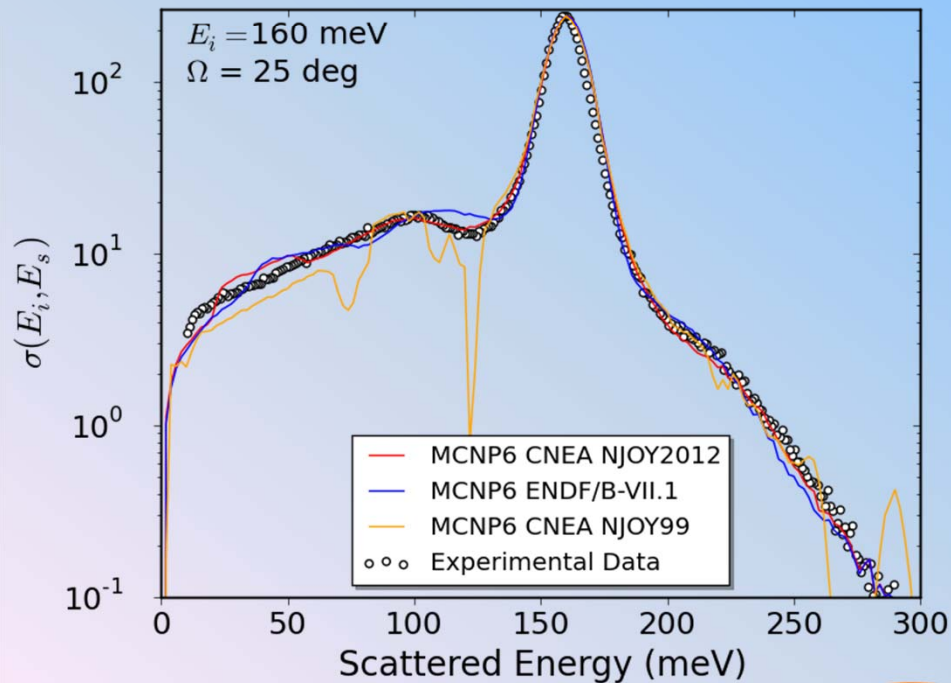
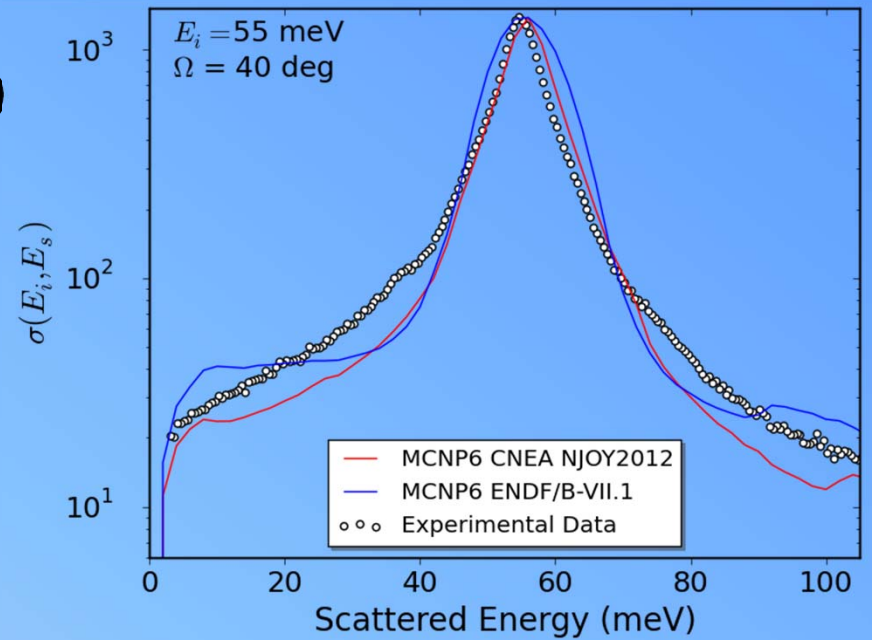
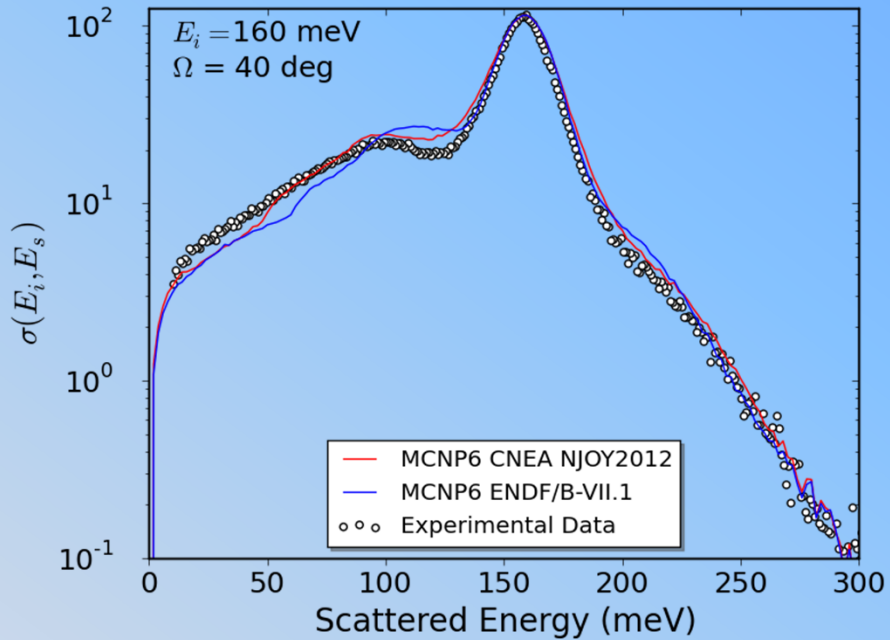
**Rensselaer**



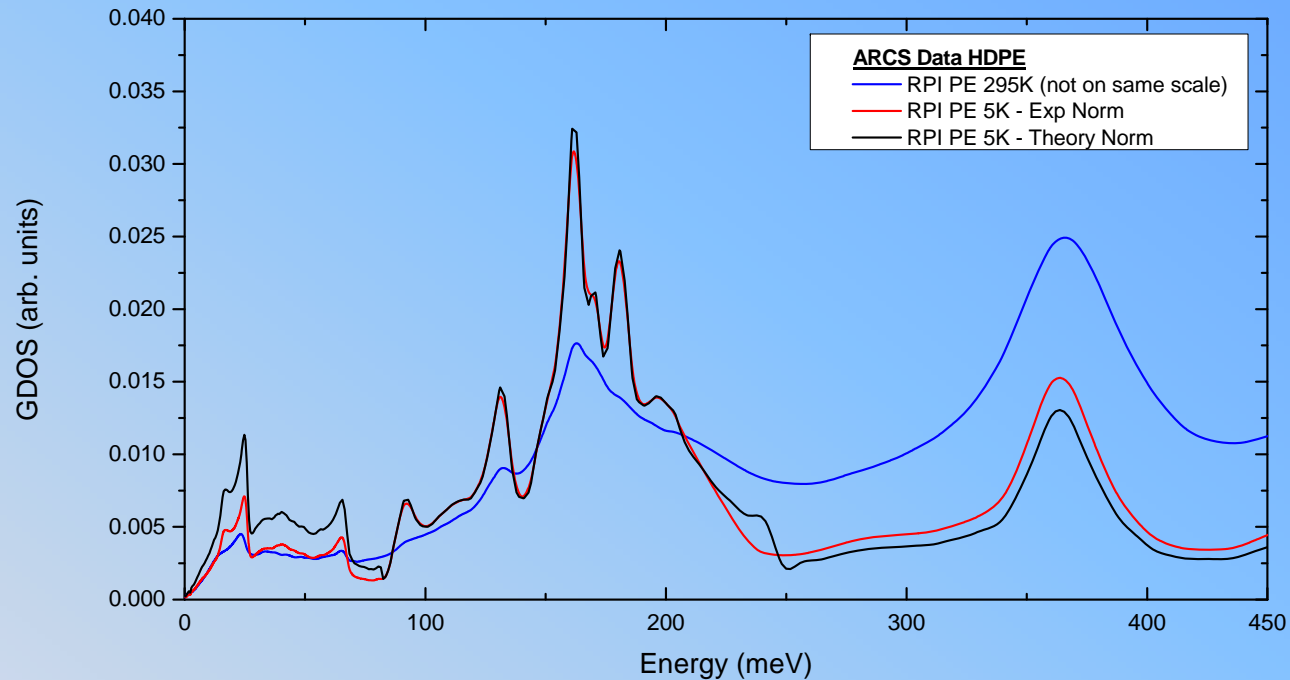
# Thermal Scattering Overview

- Performed measurements at SNS
  - SEQUOIA
    - Water
    - Medium Density Polyethylene (MDPE)
  - ARCS
    - High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) 295 K and 5 K
    - Quartz ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ) at 20, 300, 550, 600 °C
  - VISION (measures  $S(\omega)$ )
    - Lucite, Lexan, Polyethylene at 5 K and 295 K
- The double differential scattering data (DDSD) can be used to benchmark thermal scattering evaluations
- Methods to generate  $S(\alpha, \beta)$  from the experimental data are under development:
  1. Convert the data ( $S(Q, \omega)$ ) to phonon spectrum (use low values of  $Q$  to limit multiple phonon scattering)
  2. Remove the elastic peak from the DDSD and convert the inelastic part directly to  $S(\alpha, \beta)$
- Developed capabilities to use LAMMPS code to calculate the phonon spectrum and scattering kernel.

# H<sub>2</sub>O



# Phonon spectrum from measured $S(Q,E)$



- **Low temperature measurements are essential in order to resolve the structure.**
- Convert the measured  $S(Q,E)$  data for phonon spectrum using the SNS DAVE code:

$$S(Q, E) = \frac{\hbar^2 Q^2}{6ME} \exp(-\langle u^2 \rangle Q^2) G(E) [n(E, T) + 1] \quad n(E, T) = \frac{1}{\exp\left(\frac{E}{k_B T}\right) - 1}$$

$G(E)$  - generalized phonon density-of-states(GDOS),

$Q$  - wave vector transfer,

$S(Q,E)$  - structure dynamics factor,

$M$  - mass of the atom,

$\langle u^2 \rangle$  - mean square displacement.



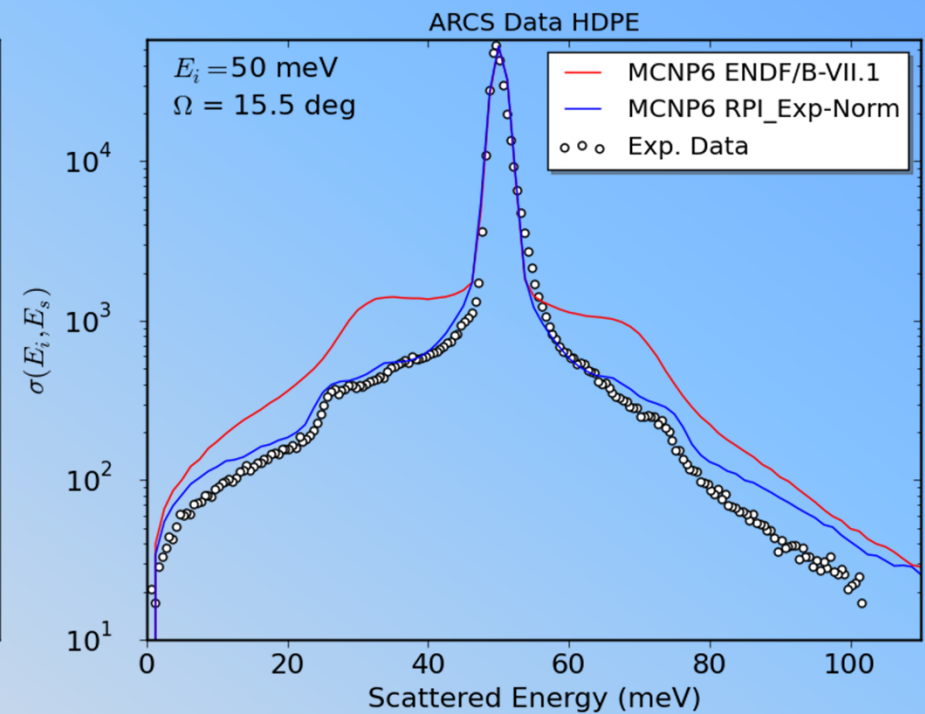
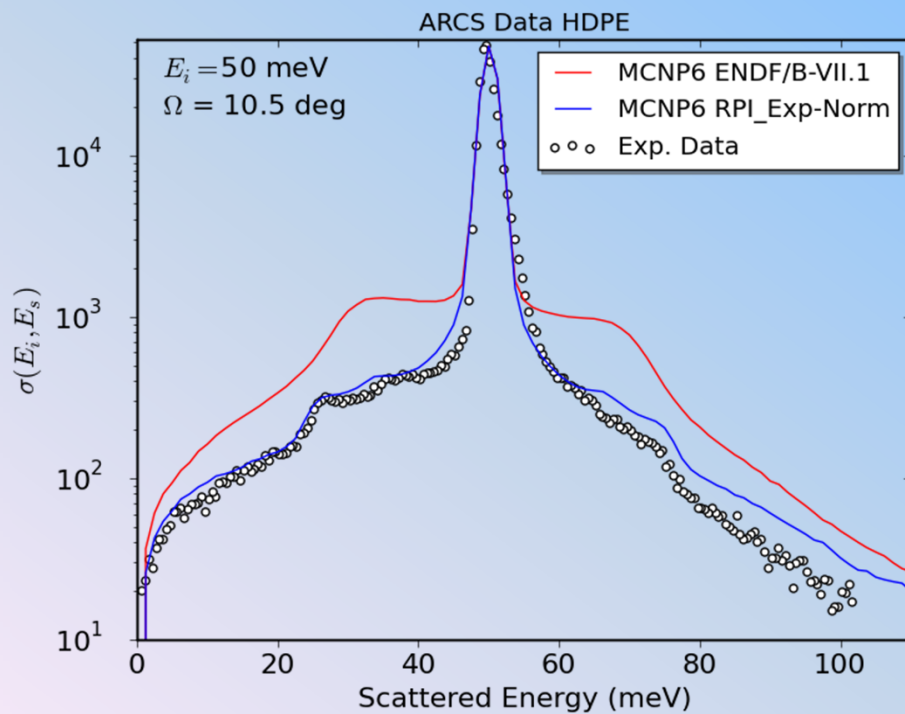
**Rensselaer**



# Example for HDPE

## Experiment Normalized GDOS

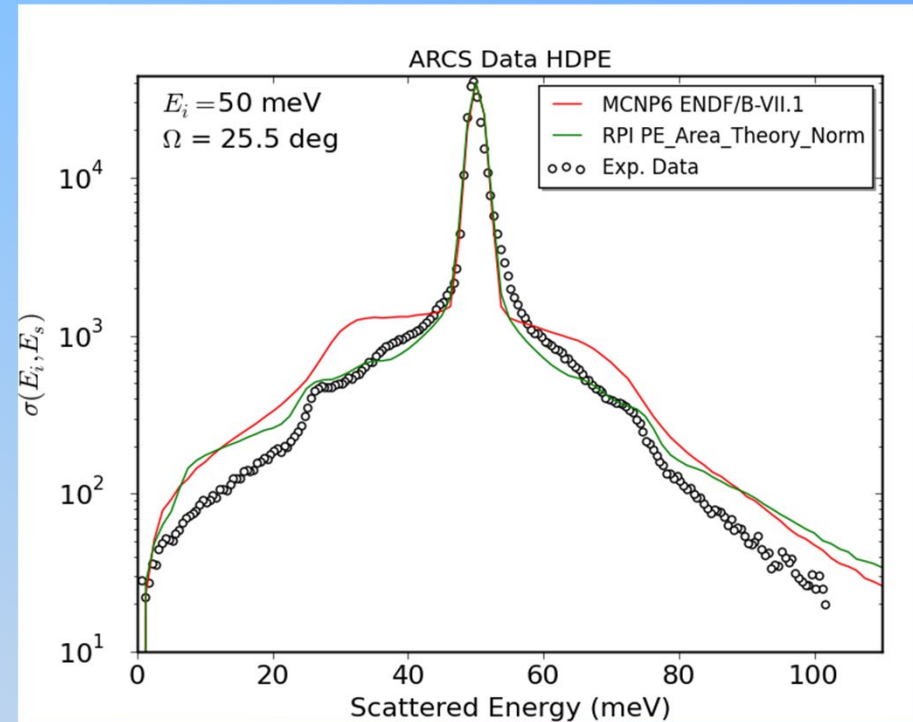
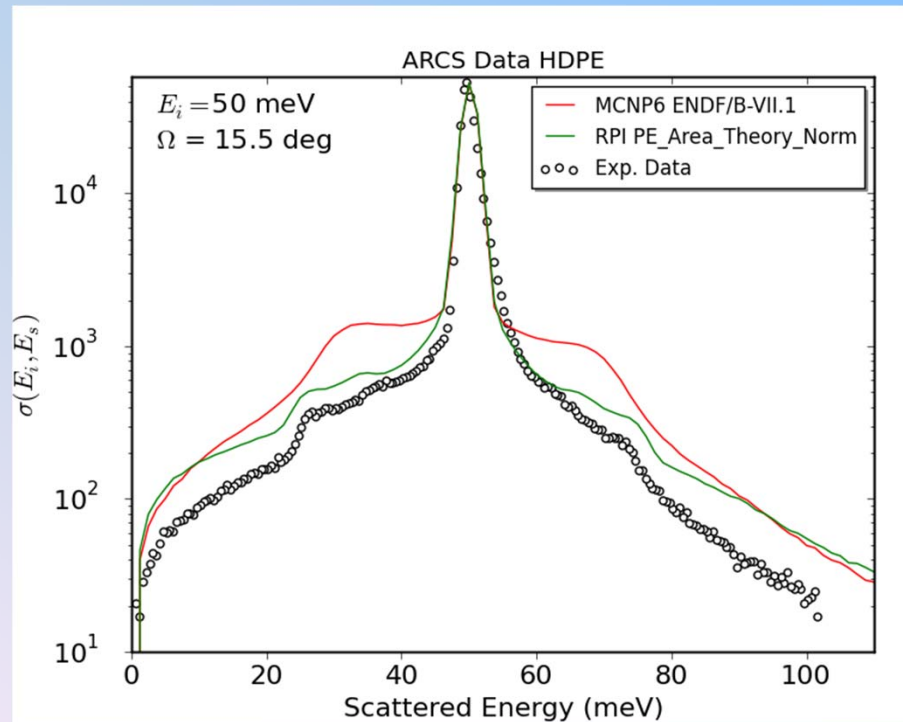
- The phonon spectrum was processed with NJOY 2012
- The experimental response simulated with MCNP 6
- The agreement with the experiment is improved



# Example for HDPE

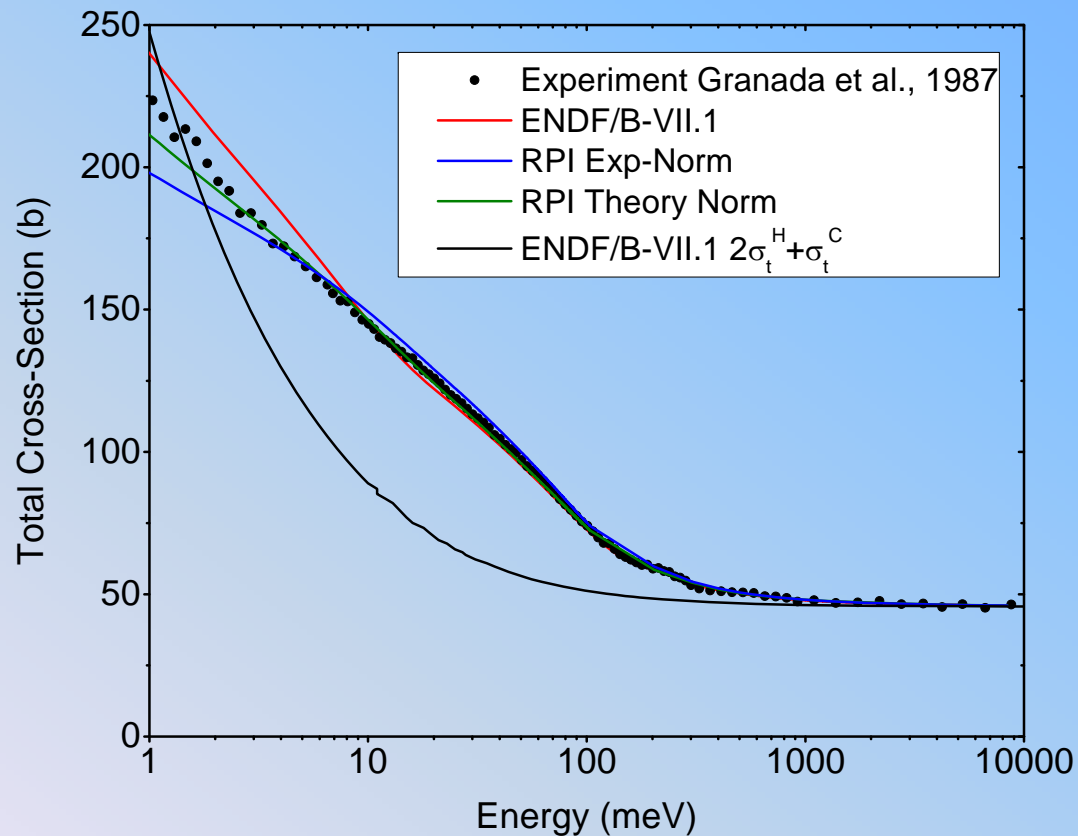
## Theory Normalized GDOS

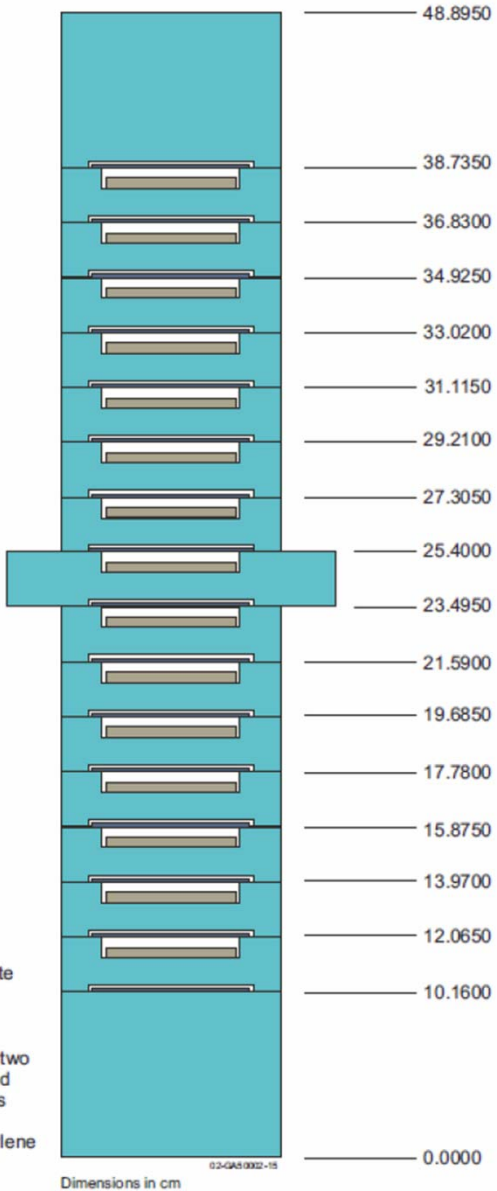
- Better agreement with total cross section but poorer agreement with double differential cross section.
- Other incident energies and angles available



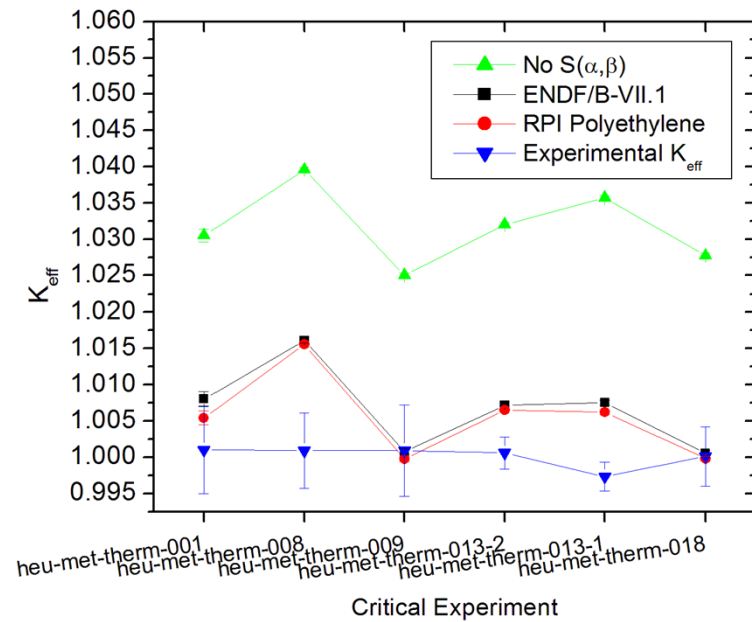
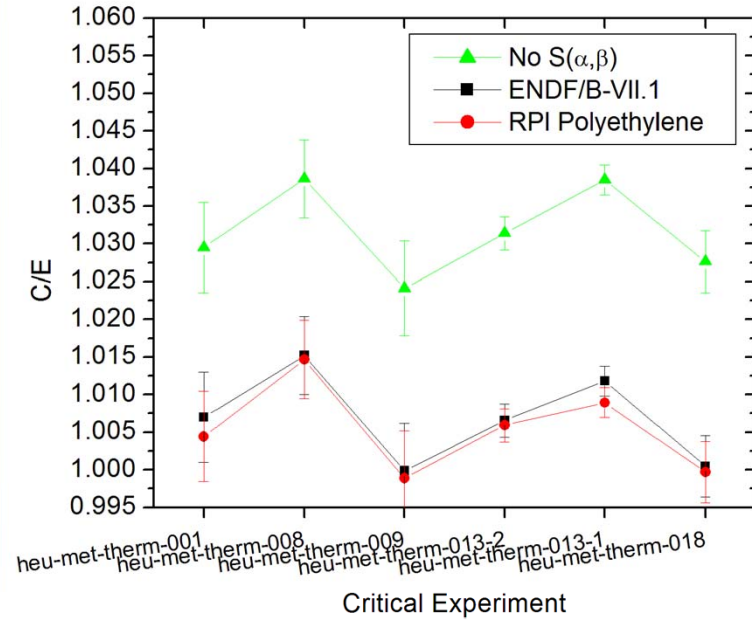
# Polyethylene Total Cross Section

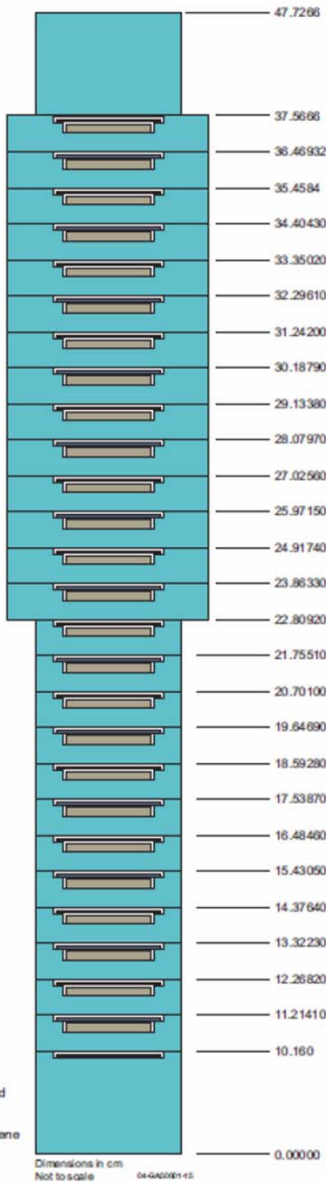
- The experimentally derived phonon spectrum is in good agreement with the total cross section measurement.
- Experimental vs theoretical normalization give slightly different results





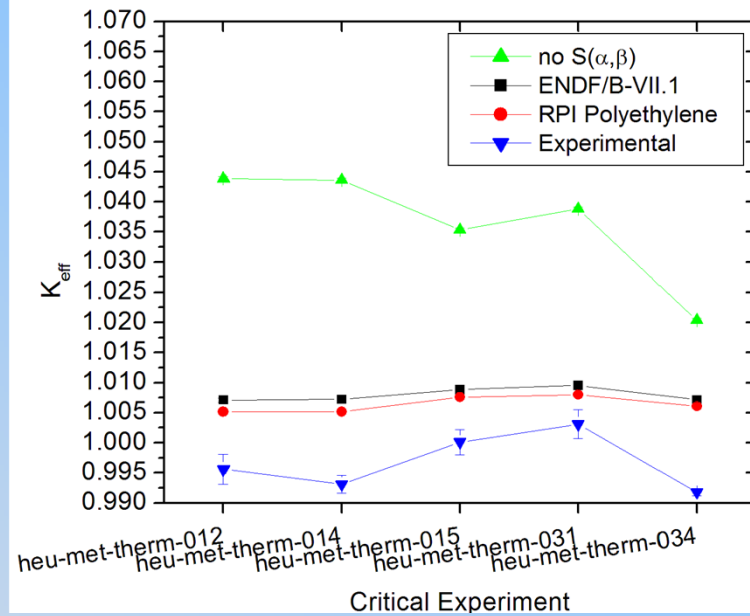
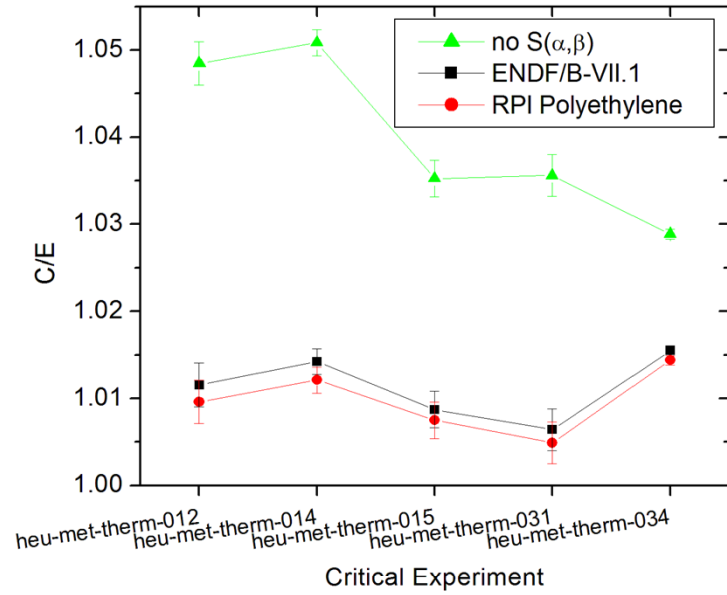
# Assemblies: Benchmark Model I





- Al
- Void
- Laminated HEU foil
- Polyethylene

# Assemblies: Benchmark Model II



# Acknowledgement

- Key collaborators at ORNL (Goran Arbanas, Mike Dunn).
- Special thanks to the help from scientists at SNS:  
Alexander Kolesnikov, Doug Abernathy, and Luke Daemen
- The project is funded by DOE NCSP.

Questions?